

Goodwill Industries. After dedicated service to both the State and Goodwill Industries, Richard received the Chairman's Award by Goodwill Industries International for outstanding leadership in a volunteer capability.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Schwartz has been an active volunteer who has greatly increased the visibility of the Goodwill mission. It is appropriate that we recognize Richard at this time for his commitment and devotion to community service, the Goodwill organization and to our Nation.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today we are commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This law has proven to make a tremendous impact on the lives of 54 million individuals in our country.

In the past decade, Americans with disabilities have been provided protection in employment, public services, public accommodations, as well as services operated by private entities, and transportation, telecommunications providers.

Since the passage of the ADA, millions of Americans have had the opportunity to contribute to society by being able to work in all fields of employment.

This monumental law has also allowed disabled Americans to enjoy life by increasing their access to recreational activities as well as removing obstacles to business and leisure travel.

Because of the ADA more and more individuals are able to travel with their families or guide dogs with better accommodations and less barriers. People with disabilities now have more access to shopping areas, dining facilities, theaters, travel services, and much more.

The ADA has helped to ensure equal employment opportunity as well as allowed individuals to materialize their educational and professional goals.

This law has opened up many doors to millions of Americans by allowing them to lead independent and self-sufficient lives. The ADA has been an important tool in the fight to eliminate all forms of discrimination. The ADA has provided reasonable accommodations in the workplace. The ADA has made major differences in the lives of many individuals.

Let's all celebrate the anniversary of the passage of this important law and celebrate the lives of millions of Americans.

LETTER FROM CARMEN SABRIA

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, this letter was brought to my attention by a constituent of mine in the 25th district of California, and I find it fitting to include it in the CONGRESSIONAL

RECORD. I believe Ms. Sabria sheds a whole new light on the Elian Gonzalez case, in retrospect, and highlights many of the freedoms Americans take for granted.

LETTER TO THOSE WHO MAY NOT UNDERSTAND: Elianated yet? I am. And duly so. It seems like an unending saga and we're all sick of it by now. But after Holy Saturday's events, even I, a pretty impartial Cuban-American, feel obligated to at least help you, my Anglo-American and African-American friends understand why the Cuban community is so outraged!

To reunite a little boy with his father is a beautiful thing. To do it with a gun at his head is not! If I can remember the small trauma when I was only two years old and my father put me and my mother in the bathroom while he nailed the ironing board to the front door to protect us from a big hurricane, I am certain this six year old will never forget this day! To take a little boy back to his real home is wonderful. But Elian is not going home to Cardenas, his home town, oh no . . . He's going to an 11-room mansion in Havana where he is going to live with his parents, yes, but also with other children and some "teachers" . . . Is that "home" or an indoctrination camp?

To some of you, most of the impassioned Cubans you have seen on T.V. today may seem irrational in their desire to keep that little boy in this free land. To us who see a child miraculously saved from the treacherous, shark-filled waters of the Florida strait, after his mother risked his life and lost hers to bring him to a place where he could be raised as a free man, where is wonderful spirit could develop and his ideas find expression, it seems criminal to send him back to a country where individual thought is an abomination, and free speech a crime.

A beautiful, fertile land that could still be as it was four decades ago, the most prosperous and advanced of all Latin America, where now children can only drink milk for a few years before their "quota" is removed, where medical doctors give up their practice to work as taxi drivers so they can earn U.S. dollars to feed their families because the peso has no value anymore; where young women prostitute themselves to tourists as the only way to earn that precious "dollar" that will buy their children some shoes; where children must join the communist "pioneros" movement with their red berets and are taught to sing communist songs and hate Americans, and youngsters grow to be "Communist Youth" members and are kept from dreaming dreams by being fed stories of upcoming invasions from "the enemy"; a country where artists and writers can only produce art that follows the government line; and fathers like Juan Miguel must obey what Fidel Castro orders him to say and do rather than do what is best for his child.

Do you know that Elian's father asked for a U.S. visa twice before little Elian came, and that he called his relatives here to let them know his child was coming here with his mom?

But little Elian will soon be reunited with his father and with his grandparents in that paradise island and we should be happy about that. No, maybe we're not acting out of concern over Elian and what his life is going to be like when he goes back "home". Maybe we're acting out of the pain that's in every one of these acclimated, prosperous, hard-working Cuban-Americans who cannot forget.

How can I forget the eight months I had to work in the fields shoveling dirt and pulling weeds as punishment because I had requested a visa to leave the country? How can I forget that my friends and I were kicked out of the University of Havana, even though we had

the highest scores in our class, just because we had not joined the Communist Party's Cuban Youth group? How can I forget the long year my godmother spent in jail for suspicion of counter-revolutionary activities and was never the same woman again? How can I forget Eddy who died of suffocation when they packed them like sardines in a truck after being captured in Bay of Pigs... He was a handsome young man in his early twenties. How can I forget the months my cousin Ramon spent in the dungeons of La Cabana Castle right after the BoP invasions (just for being a young man and not belonging to the communist militia), where they almost starved him to death and where he heard the shots every night of those who were being executed. How can my friend Marta forget the ten years she waited in Castro's Cuba while her husband, a young poet, wasted away most of the time in solitary confinement, surrounded by rats and roaches, and the ten more years she spent in the States struggling to get him out? This poet is the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Armando Valladares. Do you know that due to the terrible tortures and malnutrition he suffered when they finally got together after 20 years, he could not give her the children she had longed for and they had to adopt? Or Emilita, who sent her children to live with her parents in the States to keep them safe while she stayed behind with her husband who was serving 20 years in political prison? When she saw her children again, they were no longer children.

The stories are endless, my friends, every Cuban in this country has a story, and it is those stories that are crying out today. The story of a people who felt betrayed after the Missile Crisis when President Kennedy signed a pact with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev never to allow Cubans to plot another invasion to free their land . . . The story of a people who are feeling betrayed again because one of our own who was saved from the sharks is now being sent back to the biggest shark of all . . . Fidel Castro, who will indoctrinate him and turn him into an icon of his propaganda or, if he doesn't succeed, will destroy his spirit by turning him into a frustrated youngster with no way out.

My friends, I apologize for this "speech" but I thought it was time for this formerly not very outspoken Cuban to speak out. I know you will understand.

CARMEN SABRIA,
Miami, Florida.

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. JOE N. BALLARD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lt. Gen. Joe N. Ballard, 49th Chief of Engineers and Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who is retiring from his post after 35 commendable years of service to our Nation.

Lt. Gen. Ballard assumed command of the Corps of Engineers on October 1, 1996, and has been responsible for an annual budget of over \$12 billion and a leadership of a workforce of more than 35,000 civilian and military personnel worldwide.

During his tenure as Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Ballard led the Corps of Engineers in a